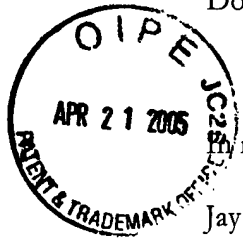


Docket No.: UIOWA-0026

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re Application of

Jay RUBINSTEIN and Blake WILSON

Confirmation No.: 6755

Serial No.: 09/023,279

Group Art Unit: 2643

Filed: 2/13/1998

Examiner: Dionne Harvey

Allowed: February 18, 2005

Customer No.: 34610

For: SPEECH PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD USING
PSEUDOSPONTANEOUS STIMULATION

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

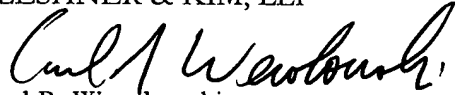
Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability dated February 18, 2005, Applicants respectfully submits the following Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

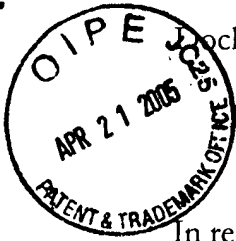
Applicants wish to thank Examiner Harvey for allowing claims 1-11, 13 and 15-31 in the above-referenced patent application. Applicants recognize the statements on page 2 of the Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance. However, Applicants cannot acknowledge these statements for the purposes of prosecution history estoppel, as they do not correspond to the recitations of the claims word-for-word. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that each dependent claim is allowable for at least the additionally recited features therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that the scope of the allowed claims should not be limited by the Examiner's statements.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP


Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372

P. O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
703 766-3701 CRW:jld
Date: April 21, 2005



File No.: UIOWA-0026

PATENT

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Jay RUBINSTEIN and Blake
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STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended by Examiner Harvey to Applicants' representative, Carl Wesolowski, during a January 18, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

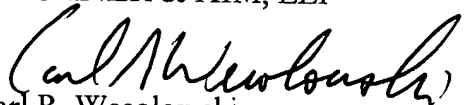
During the interview, embodiments of the present invention, Lippa and Lenhardt, and the pending claims were discussed. The claims were argued to be allowable over Lippa and Lenhardt, which individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least features of receiving a first signal, generating a second signal

that causes pseudo-spontaneous activity in an acoustic nerve, combining the first and second signals to generate the driving signal and applying the combined signal to the acoustic nerve and combinations thereof as recited in claim 11 and features variously recited in combination in the remaining rejected claims. The outstanding rejections of the claims were argued to be in error for at least these reasons, however, no agreement was reached to this point.

No exhibit was presented or demonstration conducted during the interview.

Applicants respectfully request that this paper be included in the record for purposes of satisfying the requirements under MPEP §713.04.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP


Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372

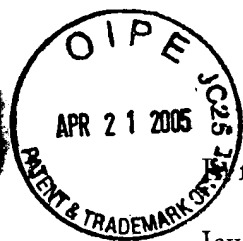
P. O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
703 766-3701 CRW;jld
Date: April 21, 2005

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Docket No.: UIOWA-0026

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

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Allowed: February 18, 2005

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PSEUDOSPONTANEOUS STIMULATION

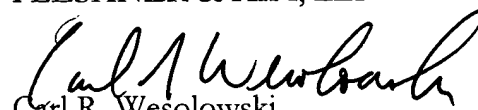
LETTER SUBMITTING FORMAL DRAWINGS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability dated February 18, 2005, submitted herewith are thirteen (13) sheets of formal drawings (Figures 1-15) in connection with the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP


Carl R. Wesolowski
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Date: April 21, 2005